

KENDALL GAZETTE

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Political, other signs must observe codes

BY RICHARD YAGER

Political signs popping up throughout Kendall have mostly been law-abiding to date.

Only two violations were reported in the East Kendall area in July, and none in West Kendall, according to its compliance officers, both of whom will remove those attached to trees or utility poles in public areas.

One report that a candidate's signs were stolen from private residence lawns in a Horse Country "really doesn't come under our jurisdiction, unless oversized," said Santiago Gonsalves, compliance officer for Team Metro West. "We haven't had any illegal postings so far in the West area."

Edward Rivera of Team Metro Kendall said two political signs had been removed on SW 127th Avenue, noting signs displayed on private property (under Miami-Dade County Code, Section 33-90) limits size to 22 by 28 inches, whether affixed to a wall or doorway.

"There's a 30-day limit for such 'special event' exceptions which include political signage," Rivera said, adding the Nov. 7 general election "event" technically allows display through the first week of December.

Kendall Team Metro supervisor Catherine Minnis said, "Neighborhood officers routinely patrol unincorporated



Many non-political signs in Kendall are in violation of code.

areas, looking for illegally posted signs. It's important that people understand that public areas are 'public rights of way,' which is essentially another way of saying public property.

"Our roads, sidewalks, the swale in front of your home, are all examples of public right of way, and are maintained by city or county employees at public expense. It is illegal to place or attach any sign (or anything else) on a public right-

of-way without express permission of the County Department of Public Works," she said. "Your mailbox is a good example of an approved object."

Any type of signage or small placard, stapled to wooden stakes, commonly placed on street medians or swale areas will be removed and thrown in the trash by compliance officers.

Minnis said officers also may trace phone numbers and addresses listed on

signage to identify responsible parties, liable for fines of \$50 and up depending upon the size and sign placement.

"Think before you act to avoid a fine," Minnis said. "If you ever have a doubt that your action may conflict with the county code, call your local Team Metro office for the straight scoop."

For problems or clarification, call Team Metro Kendall at 305-437-5516 or Team Metro West at 305-480-1700.